March 10, 2013

Dear Sirs:

 As a consumer, I am in favor of the diversity offered by the food truck vendors and regularly take advantage of it at Farragut Square. Government should not be attempting to choose winners and losers or favoring restaurants over the food trucks. Let the consumer choose. Generally, I find the prices to be higher at the food trucks than in many delis or chain restaurants but I'm willing to pay for something tasty instead of another ham & cheese sandwich. Please do not establish regulations which will make it more difficult for the food trucks to operate. Thank you.

 B. L. Waite

March 13, 2013

I am a DC resident who works near Metro Center. Before the food trucks, there were very limited options for lunch. Now, we get a wide variety of different options every day. I was able to try new and interesting foods at a low cost, and the trucks add character and fun to an otherwise dull area.

I am opposed to the proposed regulations because I am worried that the regulations would limit the number of the trucks that would serve the area. The trucks choose to cluster in certain locations because the demand for their products are highest in those areas.

I am disappointed to see that the city council is restricting and penalizing local entrepreneurs because they have been successful. Food trucks are an excellent opportunity to start a business with a low capital investment. As a result, many trucks are owned and operated by immigrants and young people. The City Council should be encouraging this type of entrepreneurship because it fosters growth and provides a valuable and wanted service to the community at the same time.

In the Washington Post, the Restaurant Association stated that it was "unfair for mobile vendors to arbitrarily poach diners on their turf." Of course, it is unfortunate that established restaurants are losing business. But nothing "unfair" is happening here. The fact is, the brick-and-mortar restaurants in this area cannot compete in quality, which is why people are turning to food trucks. Rather than running to the government to protect their interests, these

restaurants should work on improving the quality of their food so that they can be competitive again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thea Cohen
Washington, DC 20036

March 13, 2013

I haven't read all the proposed regulations. So I can't comment on the specifics.

But I do want to say that I am a regular patron of the food trucks, and I oppose any laws that it would make it difficult-to-impossible for them to operate. I think that they have been a boon to the District. In such underserved-by-restaurants areas as L'Enfant Plaza, Franklin Park and the area around Union Station, they provide much-needed eating options. I get lunch from the trucks two to three times a week.

In addition, I like the idea of patronizing small business owners. Please don't adopt any regulations that would limit the trucks to a couple of designated areas or that would in any other way make it impossible for them to operate throughout the District.

Cheryl Stein
W.D.C. 20001

March 13, 2013

Hello. I wanted to provide some feedback to you on food trucks. I work in the public safety/ private security field. In such, I have experienced during evacuation drills dense crowds – waiting in line for the food trucks – blocking the sidewalks. This is a public safety concern. The crowds created by the lines funneling from the food trucks put the public at risk in emergency situations (and in general). For example, on many occasions, I am forced to actually walk on the street to get around the food trucks near the park downtown and on 12th street in particular. Food trucks are not necessary in 'downtown' areas with plenty of food options for workers. Food trucks should only be used in under serviced areas, such as construction sites. Public safety needs to be considered when City Council votes on the final regulations. Thank you. Daman.

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